



State of North Carolina
Office of the Governor

For Release: **IMMEDIATE**
Date: Nov. 3, 2005

Contact: Sherri Johnson
Phone: 919/733-5612

**GOV. EASLEY ASKS CITIZENS, STATE EMPLOYEES TO CONSERVE WATER,
COMPLY WITH LOCAL WATER RESTRICTIONS**

Drought worsens; dry conditions encompass most areas west of I-95

RALEIGH – With more than two-thirds of North Carolina classified with conditions ranging from abnormally dry to severe drought by the Drought Management Advisory Council, Gov. Mike Easley is urging citizens and state employees to conserve water and comply with all local water use restrictions.

“With dry conditions across most of the state, I ask all citizens in these regions to do everything they can to use water wisely,” said Easley. “Since state government is one of the largest water consumers, I am asking state employees to take immediate steps to conserve water both at work and at home and comply with all local water use restrictions. State government will do its part to reduce the stress on our water supplies.”

According to the latest advisory issued today by the N.C. Drought Management Advisory Council, the drought in northern and central Piedmont has been upgraded from first-level to severe drought, following below-normal rainfall amounts for the past 60 days, low streamflows and continued low reservoir levels. The severe drought conditions affect most of the Triangle, including Alamance, Caswell, Chatham, Davidson, Durham, Franklin, Granville, Guilford, Lee, Montgomery, Moore, Orange, Person, Randolph, Stanly and Wake counties. First-level drought conditions are seen in central North Carolina, covering Anson, Cabarrus, Harnett, Hoke, Iredell, Mecklenburg, Richmond, Rockingham, Rowan, Scotland, Union, Vance and Warren counties.

“We have proven that we can manage these situations in 2002 and we will continue to implement long-term conservation measures while maintaining strong working relationships with local public water suppliers,” said Easley. “It is important that everyone, including state and local governments, citizens and business owners, continue to work together to manage our water resources prudently.”

As a consequence of these unusually dry conditions, the city of Raleigh and several other Triangle municipalities, including Apex, Knightdale, Wendell and Zebulon, have enacted mandatory water restrictions. Other local governments are expected to take similar actions if weather conditions remain the same and water supplies are not replenished. At the Governor’s direction, Dept. of Administration Secretary Gwynn Swinson is also asking state agencies to reduce all non-essential water consumption.